

Submitter: Gordon Jones

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3143

As a land owner in both Jefferson and Klamath Counties in Oregon, I fully support providing funding to ODFW to help private property owners coexist with beavers. My business, Lake Creek Lodge in Camp Sherman, has cooperated with several agencies, including Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, US Forest Service, and ThinkWild's Oregon Beaver Works, to help re-establish beavers in the Metolius Watershed. We have planted four fenced nurseries to grow Willows, Aspens and Cottonwoods for beaver forage, and have successfully attracted beavers back to Lake Creek on our property. I am also a member of the Deschutes County Wolf Depredation and Compensation Committee, which is funded by the State to compensate ranchers and private property owners that experience depredations off their livestock or working dogs. ODFW is very involved in assisting us with this program, and it might make sense to simply fold the beaver co-existence compensation program into the wolf depredation program, which is established in several Oregon counties. Another way to manage the beaver co-existence funding would be to empower non-profits such as ThinkWild's Oregon Beaver Works, or Western Beavers Association to assist ODFW in assessing solutions and providing funds. Whatever solution is utilized to provide grants or funding it is critical that it be quick, simple and effective. There are many qualified beaver advocates and volunteers that are willing to help expedite solutions for private land owners. We must stop killing or trapping beavers and recognize their beneficial qualities. After all, they are our state mammal as well as the mascot of our exceptional research university, the OSU Beavers!